

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A device for determining a printer pilot configuration of at least one printer for a printing process to be performed on a document in a file, the printer pilot configuration defining printing process parameters of the printer ~~designated to implement the document printing process~~ and being adapted for processing the complete document in the file, said device comprising:

means for analyzing content of the document in the file to determine values for characteristics of a list of characteristics of the document, wherein the determined values comprise at least a proportion of text, a proportion of image, and a proportion of graphics zones in the document; and

configuration determination means adapted, without modifying the document, to take into account the determined values for automatically determining the printer pilot configuration.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A device according to claim 1, wherein:

the document printing process is able to be performed by at least two printers; and

the printer pilot configuration, determined by said configuration determination means, includes selection of the printer intended to perform the document printing process.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A device according to claim 1, further comprising:

dialogue means for transmitting questions to a user and receiving information from the user in response to the transmitted questions; and

means for adding the information received in response from the user to the values for the characteristics of the list of characteristics, in such a manner that said configuration determination means takes into account the added information to determine the printer pilot configuration.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A device according to claim 3, further comprising a memory adapted to store the added information received in response to the transmitted questions from the user.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A device according to claim 4, wherein said memory is adapted to also store, in association with each item of added information received in response to the transmitted questions from the user, an item of information identifying the user who supplied each item of the added information.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A device according to claim 4, wherein said memory is adapted to also store, in association with each item of the added information received in response to the transmitted questions from the user, an item of information representing the document.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A device according to claim 1, further comprising printer pilot updating means adapted for
detecting that the printer pilot configuration of printer, intended to perform the document printing process, is not available or is not up to date in a memory,
and
reading the printer pilot configuration in another memory when the printer pilot configuration of the printer, intended to perform the document printing process, is either not available or is not up to date in the memory.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A device according to claim 1, further comprising:
means for checking availability of the printer which is adapted to transmit an item of information identifying that document printing process is not available, when the printer, intended to perform the document printing process, is not available for this purpose,
wherein the configuration determination means is adapted to take into account the information regarding the unavailability of document printing process in

the printer in order to determine a configuration of another printer for performing the document printing process.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A device for determining a printer pilot configuration of at least one printer for a printing process to be performed on a document in a file, the printer pilot configuration defining printing process parameters of the printer ~~designated to implement the document printing process~~ and being adapted for processing the complete document in the file, said device comprising:

estimation means for estimating value amounts of the presence of text, image and graphics zones in the document; and

configuration determination means, adapted to take into account the value amounts of the estimated presence of text, image, and graphics zones in the document, for determining the printer pilot configuration of the printer intended to perform the document printing process.

Claims 10-13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (previously presented): A device according to claim 9, further comprising quantity determination means for determining at least two quantities related to the document in the file, wherein one of the quantities is a number of pages in the document.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A device according to claim 9, further comprising quantity determination means for determining at least two quantities related to the document in the file, wherein one of the quantities is a number of digital information items in the document.

Claim 16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (previously presented): A device according to claim 9, further comprising quantity determination means for determining at least two quantities related to the document in the file, wherein one of the quantities is a degree of compression to be obtained on the document using a predetermined compression software.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A device according to claim 9, further comprising quantity determination means for determining at least two quantities related to the document in the file, wherein one of the quantities is a period of time necessary for compressing the document using a predetermined compression software.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A device according to claim 9, further comprising parts determination means for determining parts of the document,
wherein said estimation means estimates value amounts of the presence of text, image, and graphics zones in each of the parts of the document, and

wherein said configuration determination means is adapted to take into account the value amounts of the estimated presence of text, image, and graphics zones in each of the parts of the document in order to determine the configuration of the printer pilot of the printer intended to implement the document printing process on each of the parts of the document.

Claims 20-25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (currently amended): A method of determining a printer pilot configuration of at least one printer for a printing process to be performed on a document in a file, the printer pilot configuration defining printing process parameters of the printer ~~designated to implement the document printing process~~ and being adapted for processing the complete document in the file, said device comprising:

an analyzing step of analyzing content of the document in the file to determine values for characteristics of a list of characteristics of the document, wherein the determined values comprise at least a proportion of text, a proportion of image, and a proportion of graphics zones in the document; and

a configuration determination step of, without modifying the document, taking into account the determined values for automatically determining the printer pilot configuration.

Claim 27 (currently amended): A method according to claim 26, wherein:

the document printing process is able to be performed by at least two printers; and

the configuration determination step includes a step of selecting the printer intended to perform the document printing process.

Claim 28 (previously presented): A method according to claim 26, further comprising:

an dialogue step of dialoguing with a user during which questions are transmitted to the user and information is received from the user in response; and

an addition step of adding the information, received in response to the transmitted questions from the user, to the values for the characteristics of the list of characteristics in such a manner that said configuration determination step takes into account the added information received in response to the transmitted questions from the user to determine the printer pilot configuration.

Claim 29 (previously presented): A method according to claim 28, further comprising a storage step of storing the added information received in response to the transmitted questions from the user.

Claim 30 (previously presented): A method according to claim 29, wherein said storage step also includes associating, with each item of the added information

received in response to the transmitted questions from the user, an item of information identifying the user who supplied each item of the added information.

Claim 31 (previously presented): A method according to claim 29, wherein said storage step also includes associating, with each item of the added information received in response to the transmitted questions from the user, an item of information representing the document.

Claim 32 (previously presented): A method according to claim 26, further comprising a printer pilot updating step, which includes

- detecting that the printer pilot configuration printing process is not available or is not up to date in a memory, and

- reading the printer pilot configuration in another memory when the printer pilot configuration of the printer, intended to perform the document printing process, is either not available or is not up to date in the memory.

Claim 33 (previously presented): A method according to claim 26, further comprising:

- a checking step of checking availability of the printer during which an item of information, identifying that document printing process is not available, is transmitted when the printer, intended to perform the document printing process, is not available for this purpose,

wherein, said configuration determination step takes into account the information regarding the unavailability of document printing process in the printers in order to determine a configuration of another printer able to implement the document printing process.

Claim 34 (currently amended): A method for determining a printer pilot configuration of at least one printer for a printing process to be performed on a document in a file, the printer pilot configuration defining printing process parameters of the printer ~~designated to implement the document printing process~~ and being adapted for processing the complete document in the file, said method comprising:

an estimating step of estimating value amounts of the presence of text, image, and graphics zones in the document; and

a configuration determination step of, during which the value amounts of the estimated presence of text, image, and graphics zone in the document are taken into consideration, determining a configuration of the printer pilot of the printer intended to perform the document printing process.

Claims 35-38 (canceled)

Claim 39 (previously presented): A method according to claim 34, further including a quantity determination step of determining at least two quantities related to the

document in the file, wherein one of the quantities represents a number of pages in the document.

Claim 40 (previously presented): A method according to claim 34, further including a quantity determination step of determining at least two quantities related to the document in the file, wherein one of the quantities represents a number of digital information items in the document.

Claim 41 (canceled)

Claim 42 (previously presented): A method according to claim 34, further including a quantity determination step of determining at least two quantities related to the document in the file, wherein one of the quantities represents a degree of compression to be obtained on the document by using a predetermined compression software.

Claim 43 (previously presented): A method according to claim 34, further including a quantity determination step, of determining at least two quantities related to the document in the file, wherein one of the quantities represents a period of time necessary for compressing the document by a predetermined compression software.

Claim 44 (canceled)

Claim 45 (previously presented): A method according to claim 26, further comprising a step of compressing the document.

Claim 46 (previously presented): A method according to claim 34, further comprising a part determination step of determining parts of the document and, for each of the parts of the document,

wherein said estimating step estimates value amounts of the estimated presence of text, image, and graphic zones in each of the parts of the document, and

wherein said configuration determination step, taking into account the value amounts of the estimated presence of text, image, and graphics zones in each of the parts of the document, determines the configuration of the printer pilot of the printer intended to perform the document printing process on each of the parts of the document.

Claim 47 (previously presented): A method according to claim 46, wherein during said part determination step, pages of the document are determined.

Claims 48 and 49 (canceled)

Claim 50 (previously presented): A device according to claim 9, further comprising quantity determination means for determining at least two quantities related to the document in the file, wherein said quantity determination means is adapted to scrutinize data from the document which are directly accessible to a user.

Claim 51 (previously presented): A device according to claim 9, further comprising quantity determination means for determining at least two quantities related to the document in the file, wherein said quantity determination means is adapted to function without using a software application capable of modifying the content of the document.

Claim 52 (previously presented): A device according to claim 9, further comprising quantity determination means for determining at least two quantities related to the document in the file, wherein said quantity determination means is adapted to read at least one quantity in a file.

Claim 53 (previously presented): A device according to claim 9, wherein:
the document printing process is able to be performed by at least two
printers; and
said configuration determination means is adapted to select a printer
able to perform the document printing process.

Claim 54 (previously presented): A device according to claim 9, further comprising quantity determination means for determining at least two quantities related to the document in the file, wherein one of the quantities is a time period to open the document by a software application capable of modifying the content of the document.

Claim 55 (previously presented): A method according to claim 34, further including a quantity determination step of determining at least two quantities related to the document in the file, wherein said quantity determination step includes a scrutinizing step of scrutinizing data from the document which are directly accessible to a user.

Claim 56 (previously presented): A method according to claim 34, further including a quantity determination step of determining at least two quantities related to the document in the file, wherein said quantity determination step can be performed without having to use a software application capable of modifying the content of the document.

Claim 57 (previously presented): A method according to claim 34, further including a quantity determination step of determining at least two quantities related to the document in the file, wherein said quantity determination step includes a reading step[[,]] of reading at least one quantity in a file.

Claim 58 (previously presented): A method according to claim 34, wherein:
the document printing process is able to be performed by at least two printers; and
said configuration determination step includes a selection step of selecting a printer able to perform the document printing process.

Claim 59 (previously presented): A method according to claim 34, further including a quantity determination step of determining at least two quantities related to the document in the file, wherein, during said quantity determination step, one of the quantities represents a time period to open the document by a software application capable of modifying the contents of the document.